DPRK(/country/prk)

Humanitarian Aid In North Korea: Media Resource Guide

Other

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What US Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Are Doing
November 1997 Media Resource Guide
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° MAP International
° Mercy Corps International
° Operation USA
° Refugees International
° United Methodist Committee on Relief
° U.S. Committee for UNICEF
° World Relief
° World Vision

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The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) began working with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) after its government's initial appeal for emergency food aid in September 1995. To date, ADRA has provided more than $5 million in medical, food and agricultural aid. ADRA has provided medicines and medical equipment/supplies, and technical exchange at a value of $2.35 million. ADRA's food program, with a value of $623,000, supplied North Korean with the following: 372 MT of noodles, 215 MT of rice, 52 MT of milk powder and 21 of MT baby food. ADRA also contributed $1.6 million to agricultural recovery. ADRA, Mercy Corps and other NGO partners distributed 100 MT of barley. ADRA also distributed 40 MT of vegetable seeds.

In November 1996, under the auspices of ADRA, a 17-member heart surgery team from Loma Linda University Medical Center in Loma Linda, California, visited the DPRK. The team worked at the Kim Man You Hospital, performing open-heart surgery on 12 patients and vascular surgery on four patients. Twenty diagnostic cardiac procedures were also done, including two coronary stent interventions, the first such procedure in the country. A heart/lung machine and other supplies and equipment worth more than $250,000 were left with the Korean Cardiac Society.

ADRA's partners include: the Flood Rehabilitation Committee, the World Food Program, the Ministry of Health, and the Heart Association.

ADRA is funded through private donations, NGO partners, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Loma Linda University, United Airlines, and the Korean SDA Church Council of North America.

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Since the fall of 1995, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Korea Relief Fund has provided $475,000 for food relief and agricultural supports. Contributions from the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and fundraising by Korean American groups have been a significant part of this effort. In 1996 and 1997, rice was purchased in the region, Caritas/Hong Kong arranged for purchase.

AFSC is now focused on helping farmers to increase food production though the AFSC still contributes to food shipments. AFSC aims to work on three levels: 1) at the farm level by providing emergency aid and critical inputs to enable the farm to recover previous levels of output; 2) at the national level by organizing technical exchanges and facilitate access to information to promote agricultural rehabilitation through appropriate and sustainable agricultural practices; and 3) at the regional level by facilitating DPRK participation in regional exchange-oriented programs.

Following a visit by AFSC in June 1997 to the Sambong Cooperative Farm in Pyongan Province, AFSC purchased 480 tons ($102,000) of urea fertilizer in China and delivered it to the farm in early July. Future work in agricultural rehabilitation will be centered on Sambong farm initially, and carried out with the support of the MCC, Heifer Project International and Lutheran World Relief.

In September 1997, AFSC sent a shipment of 60 tons of winter wheat seed (from China) and 183 tons of fertilizer (from South Korea) for Sambong and other farms for an early October planting. A shipment of clothing, blankets, soap, and canned meat is scheduled. Part of that material aid shipment is a "Mittens & Milk" campaign, focused on aid items for children at the Sambong farm. The "Mittens & Milk" campaign will be targeted towards schools and Friends Meetings throughout the holiday season. A monitoring trip to the DPRK and another shipment of seeds and other agricultural inputs is scheduled for later this winter.

AFSC helped support the visit of six North Korean agriculturists to the U.S. this summer. They visited farming sites in Minnesota, Missouri and Georgia in August. An AFSC-hosted delegation from the DPRK is in the U.S. for several weeks this fall and one of the delegates is an agriculturist. They are scheduled to visit AFSC offices and other educational and agricultural sites.

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Since September 1995, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Federation) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Red Cross (DPRK Red Cross) have been assisting more than 130,000 beneficiaries (26,000 families) with regular food distributions representing a daily ration of 450 grams per person. The American Red Cross has supported these efforts through the facilitation

of contributions totaling nearly $275,000 in cash; and in-kind donations of 350 MT of wheat flour; 18,000 liters of vegetable oil; and a shipping container full of first aid supplies.

In operations supported by three Federation appeals, the DPRK Red Cross/Federation have been assisting beneficiaries in 15 counties in five affected provinces (North Pyongan, Jagang, North Hwanghae, South Hwanghae and Kangwon). The DPRK Red Cross/Federations selects the following beneficiaries: families who lost everything in the floods; and vulnerable groups, such as single mothers, elderly, widows, disabled, families with many children, and pregnant and lactating mothers. Beneficiaries of the Red Cross program are not served by the Public Distribution System (PDS).

The first appeal, for $4,151,000, was 84% covered; and the second appeal, for $6,390,000, 77% covered. This response ensured that the 130,000 Red Cross beneficiaries regularly received their full daily 450g rice/wheat ration. The shortfall in the appeal coverage was reflected in a reduced distribution of supplementary food (soy beans and vegetable oil).

Following a Federation assessment mission carried out in May 1997, the third appeal, which runs through November 1997, was expanded to include the provision of emergency food rations to 740,000 beneficiaries in 19 counties. In addition, the Red Cross operation now includes a health component which will provide essential medicines and medical supplies to 106 Ri-Hospitals and 343 Ri-Polyclinics, which are first level health centers, in the same 19 counties where food distributions are being carried out. (One Ri-Hospital covers a population of 20,000-22,000. One Ri-Polyclinic covers a population of 1,000/1,500 - 3,000/4,000.) Medical supplies in these hospitals and clinics have been at critically low levels.

The following items have been distributed to the target beneficiaries as of June 1997. Figures in brackets show quantities provided in the first two appeals:

° Food: 31,830 Metric Tons (MT) of rice/wheat flour/corn [16,723 MT], 817 MT of soy beans [697 MT], 100,000 packs of instant noodles, 171 MT of vegetable oil (130 MT in pipeline), 120 MT of milk powder.
° Clothing: 24,900 pieces jackets (9,200), 2,708 meters of cloth
° Quilts/blankets: 124,005 pieces (23,980)
° Medical: 1,512 medical/first aid kits (457 kits in pipeline)

° Building materials (locally purchased - for reconstruction of 1,900 houses destroyed by floods): 5,415 MT of cement; 3,420 cubic meters of timber; 22.99 MT of steel.

The DPRK Red Cross has carried out the distributions, and the Federation has maintained a representative in the country since 1995 to ensure continued assistance to the DPRK Red Cross in planning, purchasing, monitoring and reporting. In summer 1997, the Federation staff in Pyongyang will be increased to four: a Head of Delegation, two logistics/monitoring delegates, and a Health Delegate to administer the health component. In addition, liaison delegates will be posted in Beijing and in Seoul to help coordinate the purchase and transport arrangements for food.

The Federation office in Pyongyang reports excellent support and cooperation from both the government and the Red Cross Society of the DPRK.

An American Red Cross representative visited the DPRK in June, 1997 to observe the food distribution operation. The American Red Cross continues to facilitate donations for the appeal.

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Baptist World Aid (BWAid) has just launched a special appeal for North Korea. Funds received will be channeled through the Canadian Baptist Sharing Way program to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and other appropriate groups, where there is effective monitoring of distribution. The Canadian Foodgrains Bank is in the process of sending their second shipment of grain to the DPRK.

BWAid did not make an earlier appeal for funds for the DPRK until the right avenue of support was identified. Funds forwarded through BWAid are received from Baptist organizations around the world, Baptist churches and individual private donors.

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CARE is the lead agency of a five-member PVO consortium to monitor distribution of 55,000 MT of corn and rice, 1,000 MT of salt for household kimchi production for vulnerable populations in North Pyongan, South Pyongan, North Hwanghae, Pyongyang, Chagang and Kangwon. CARE also distributed 35,000 MT of maize seeds and vegetable seeds for 10 cooperative farms in Pyongyang, South Pyongyang and North Hwanghae. CARE also distributed 450 MT of tomato, cabbage, radish and other vegetable seeds.

CARE collaborates with Catholic Relief Services, Amigos Internacionales, Mercy Corps and World Vision. CARE also works on the ground with FDRC and the World Food Program.

CARE is funded by USAID, FFP and private funds from donors. The PVO Consortium is valued at $18 million in food commodities, $10,000 cash from CARE for salt. CARE contributed $50,000 for the seed project and Burpee Seeds contributed $10,000. The seed project has a total retail value of $85,000.

CARE remains concerned particularly about children ages seven to seventeen, who do not qualify for the larger United Nations feeding program. CARE also remains concerned about food security and PVO access to restricted regions.

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Since the fall of 1995, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), a member organization of Caritas Internationalis (CI), has provided assistance to the DPRK via CI member agencies located in Asia.

In 1995 and 1996, CRS supported the food assistance programs of Caritas Hong Kong, providing $86,195 for the

purchase of corn/soya blend and rice. In 1997, CRS contributed $60,000 to the relief efforts of Caritas Japan, also for the purchase of rice. CRS contributions to the Caritas network now amount to more than $375,000. A recent CRS donation channeled through Caritas Hong Kong consists of a 10.5 metric ton shipment of dry milk powder donated by a group of dairy farmers in California. CRS is also donating $100,000 to Caritas Hong Kong's larger effort to purchase multivitamins for children in nurseries and kindergartens and iron mineral supplements for pregnant and lactating women. Caritas Hong Kong and Caritas Japan receive additional sponsorship from other CI member agencies. Both agencies work in conjunction with the DPRK's Flood Damage Rehabilitation Program, and Caritas Hong Kong's large assistance program coordinates with the World Food Program for the purposes of monitoring and accountability.

Building on its experience distributing emergency relief assistance provided by the American government, CRS is providing the Team Leader to a consortium of 5 American PVOs that is currently monitoring 55,000 tons of corn donated to North Korea by the United States through the World Food Program.

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Christian Reformed World Relief Committee has participated in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank response to North Korea since the Bank first learned about the emerging food deficit in that country back in the fall of 1995. Together with several other Foodgrains Bank partners, three local purchases of Thai rice and a shipment of Canadian wheat have been provided to date. In late July, Canadian Foodgrains Bank partners - including CRWRC - made further commitments totaling $1million that would be used to arrange either a local purchase of rice or a shipment of wheat from Canada. It is our plan to have this additional food provided prior to the North Korean harvest in September/October.

CWRC contributed $20,000 to the 1996 shipment of 1,800 MT of Thai rice and $90,000 towards our 13,500 MT shipment of Canadian wheat on early 1997. An additional shipment is planned in 1997 with CWRC contributing $30,000.

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Church World Service (CWS) provides several types of aid to the people of North Korea. CWS provides material aid (food, grain, medicine, clothing and blankets), CWS seconded an NGO Liaison Officer to the World Food Program, and CWS has participated in three delegation visits to North Korea in 1997. CWS has distributed the following: 915 MT of rice, 1200 MT of beef, 66,980 lb. of antibiotics, 970 lb. of clothing, and 111,346 lb. of blankets and quilts.

CWS's implementing partners include the Korean Christians Federation and Food Damage Rehabilitation Committee (FDRC), the World Food Program and UNICEF. National denominations and private individuals fund CWS's $2.4 million dollar programs.

CWS is especially concerned about the NGO Liaison Office, given that an enormous amount of shipments require monitoring and reporting and the office is understaffed. CWS also suggests that NGOs begin considering ways of coordinating their activities so that the WFP, the FDRC, and the NGO Liaison Official can better serve the shipments and receive their visits.

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In response to the situation in the DPR Korea, Direct Relief has worked in partnership with the National Committee for Rehabilitation of Flood Disaster to distribute medical commodities to health facilities. Since January 1996 more than 18,000 pounds of specifically requested pharmaceuticals and medical supplies have been dispatched, valued at over $255,000.

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Food for the Hungry International (FHI) began shipping requested supplies to North Korea immediately after the July-August 1995 floods. Ted Yamamori, president of FHI, is directing the organizational effort, making regular assessment and monitoring visits.

All aid is channeled through the government's Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee (FDRC). Food is designated for Kwangwan Province, Sinuiju, and other areas where most needed. The medical supply consignee is Kim Man Yu hospital which has a network of 4,000 hospitals and clinics in all of North Korea. To assist with monitoring, FHI is one of five agencies that provided funding for the posting of an NGO representative (approved by the DPRK) in Pyongyang to monitor the shipment of goods coming from the NGOs.

FHI food and seed shipments are channeled through the FDRC and designated for Kangwon Province, Sinuiju, and other areas where most needed. The medical supply consignee is Kim Man Yu hospital which has a network of 4,000 hospitals and clinics in all of North Korea.

Throughout past six months, FHI has delivered 840 MT of wheat flour (from Dandong), one container of dehydrated food, 2 containers of vegetable seeds, and 50,000 1/2 liter bottles of milk (from Beijing - for children in day care centers). Since August 1995, total shipments to date include: 12 containers of rice, corn, and dehydrated foods; 11 containers of medical supplies; 2 containers of vegetable seeds; 840 MT of wheat flour; and 50,000 bottles of milk. The total value of these shipments is $5.59 million.

FHI also participated in funding the Food Aid Liaison Unit within the World Food Program in Pyongyang to monitor and coordinate NGO shipments.

FHI will continue to send shipments as funding allows until thecrisis is over.

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Heifer Project China has been engaged in a Small Animals for Food Security and Peace Program at a cooperative farm. The overall aim of the project is to increase food security of participating families, and to develop a model of food production/animal agriculture useful for other parts of the country.

HPI/China team will distribute dairy goats, rabbits, and poultry. Agroforestry practices will be implemented to ensure soil quality. Trees and shrubs that are appropriate to the region will be planted in selected areas within the cooperative. Dairy goats will be selected from regional Asian stock that have at least half European blood, and can produce at least 300 kg of milk per lactation. Selected families will receive 10. Rabbits will be Californian or New Zealand breed from Asian stock and already adapted to the region. Poultry will be one of several local multipurpose types, and distributed in groups of ten per family. The 100 dairy goats will be managed by larger units within the cooperative with full-time care. A local facilitator will be used part-time to represent HPI's objectives for the duration of the project.

Training for the project will be provided before the animals are delivered and ongoing training will be available for families in the cooperative. Nutritionists will educate both husbands and wives on gaining the best nutritional value from animal products.

This program is funded in full by private donors.

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Interchurch Medical Assistance (IMA) made three shipments of donated and purchased pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and IMA medicine boxes to the DPRK during the last fiscal year. These shipments, which were made to three

hospitals and several clinics in Pyongyang, had a product value of $523,000.

Two of IMA's affiliated organizations, ADRA and Church of the Brethren, were the agency's main facilitating partners and funding sources. Thirteen mostly Protestant denominations are full affiliates of IMA. Future shipments will be made at the request of these affiliates.

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Latter-day Saint Charities provides the following types of relief:

° Food relief, i.e. basic staple foods to support the Public Distribution System and Red Cross programs.
° Medical relief through basic first aid materials and blankets for public clinic and hospital use. Latter-day Saint Charities responds to requests for medical assessment, with potential training program follow-up.
° Cold weather clothing is provided to the most vulnerable.
° Latter-day Saint Charities provides seed, fertilizer, insecticides for immediate cropping. Latter-day Saint Charities is developing a longer term agricultural development program to enhance production capacity.

Food relief has been delivered to World Food Program, DPRK Red Cross (with IFRC Coordination and monitoring), and most recently the DPRK Flood Rehabilitation Committee. Medical materials have been consigned to DPRK Red Cross. Agricultural inputs have been consigned to the Agriculture Commission and the Daechong and other communal farms.

Latter-day Saints have shipped or planned shipments totaling 2,500 tons of food, 40 tons of first aid materials and blankets, 20 tons of cold weather clothing, 400 tons of fertilizer, 2.5 tons of insecticide, cabbage and radish seeds.

Latter-day Saint Charities is funded in full by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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Lutheran World Relief's (LWR) activities include: emergency shipments of foodgrains, seeds, plastic sheeting to protect seedlings, medicines and clothing; aid monitoring; agricultural recovery and rehabilitation; and participation in a inter-faith humanitarian delegation in November 1997.

LWR has provided seeds to Pyoksong, Kangnam, Junghwa, and Sinchon counties in South Hwanghae and Pyongyang provinces. LWR has distributed medicines in South Hwanghae. Other material aid has been distributed under the auspices of the Korean Christians Federation.

Agricultural recovery and rehabilitation work has been carried out in Pyongan province.

LWR and partner agencies have distributed goods and services to a variety of populations including women and children. Aid shipments supported in part include 25 tons of clothing, 900 MT of rice, 1200 MT of corn, and 500 MT of barley.

LWR's international partners include Action by Churches Together, Church World Service, and the American Friends Service Committee. The Korean Christians Federation, the Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee, and the NGO Liaison Office of World Food Program are among the local LWR partners.

LWR is funded by parish donations and individual church members. Programs supported total $2.8 million and LWR's contribution to date is $157,000.

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MAP International has been working in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for over four years, well before the DPRK government's appeal for emergency aid in September, 1995. To date, MAP International has provided over $4

million in medicines and medical supplies including antibiotics, analgesics, and a host of other items from DPRK and NGO needs lists. This has been accomplished through independent initiatives as well as providing relief through other NGOs including World Vision, Mercy Corps International and Food for the Hungry. MAP is presently preparing to provide an additional $3 million in humanitarian assistance.

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Mercy Corps has been actively engaged in providing humanitarian aid to North Korea since March 1996. Mercy Corps humanitarian efforts include food and medical aid, agricultural rehabilitation, education/advocacy efforts, and increasing the exchange of visitors between North Korea and the United States.

Food and Medical Aid

° Shipped medical supplies and medicines (valued at over $1 million) and 120 MT of rice.
° Participated in establishment and funding of a Food Aid Liaison Unit within the World Food Program in Pyongyang to coordinate NGO relief efforts and monitor food shipments.
° Arranged to send a series of shipments of medicines, medical supplies, and medical equipment valued at approximately $7 million from August 1997 - April 1998.
° Preparing to send family food packs consisting of rice, canned meat, sugar and cooking oil. Each food pack will feed one family for one month.
° Mercy Corps is one of five US NGOs in a consortium to send relief experts to monitor 55,000 MT of US food aid.

Agricultural Rehabilitation/Food Security

° Developed comprehensive proposal for barley seeds to introduce double cropping for summer harvest.
° Shipped 100 MT of barley seed, 35 MT of high-yielding corn seed, and 3 MT of soybean seed, which are expected to yield enough grain to feed approx. 700,000 people during the critical months before the next harvest.
° Shipped 24,000 lb. of green bean seeds valued at $30,000.
° Launched a 3-year integrated farm project valued at $ 3 million on the Daechong Farm in the flood-damaged county of Unpa to demonstrate methods to increase food production and promote food security.

Advocacy

° Convened Musgrove I conference on humanitarian aid to North Korea for key U.S. NGOs which led to increased attention to and humanitarian aid for the DPRK.

° Co-convened Musgrove II conference in Seoul to open dialogue between South Korean NGO, international NGO and UN groups to catalyze collaborative efforts for immediate food aid to North Korea.
° Founding member of Committee to Stop Famine in North Korea.
° Ellsworth Culver, Senior Vice President, is chairman of the executive committee of an NGO coalition which negotiated with US and DPRK officials to allow NGO monitoring of 55,000 MT of US food aid.

Delegations to DPRK

° Ells Culver has led seven fact-finding delegations since July 1996 to visit flood damaged farms, hospitals, and clinics; monitor seed projects; discuss longer-term agricultural projects; and negotiate increased monitoring of food shipments as well as increase in delegations to and from the DPRK.

To date, Mercy Corps has raised over $400,000 through private contributions and 16 partner organizations (ADRA, CARE, Church of the Brethren, Church World Service, Cornerstone Ministries, L.D.S. Ministries, MAP International, Maryknoll Missioners, Newman's Own, Northwest Medical Teams, Operation USA, S.G. Foundation, Stewardship Foundation, World Concern, World Touch, and World Vision) to support direct famine relief and ongoing agricultural rehabilitation and development activities.

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Operation USA was contacted two years ago by the DPRK UN Mission for assistance and our shipments of medical supplies and equipment, valued at $976,951 this year, have been sent to the Flood Relief Committee in cooperation with Mercy Corps International. Operation USA is currently developing air cargo shipments with assistance from private individuals and air carriers. Operation USA is also providing "get away" packs for physicians traveling to North Korea.

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Refugees International has worked to mobilize public opinion and to induce governments to act in response to the food crisis in North Korea.

On June 2nd, Refugees International (RI) President Lionel Rosenblatt and Board member Shep Lowman of the U.S. Catholic Conference published an opinion piece in the Washington Times calling for increased international food assistance to North Korea, especially from Japan.

On June 10th, Rosenblatt gave a speech at the residence of the British Ambassador in Tokyo in which he again called for increased international aid for North Korea. The Japan Times subsequently interviewed him and published an article titled "A Hungry Child Knows No Politics.&quo

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In the spring of 1996, The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) received a license from the Department of Commerce to ship $100,000 worth of humanitarian relief supplies to North Korea. This first shipment included rice, powdered milk, blankets and boots.

In September 1996, UMCOR received approval from the Department of Commerce to ship $6,650,000 worth of humanitarian relief. This relief effort will consist of 100,000 "family boxes" and 3,000 tons of rice. Each "family box" contains rice, powdered milk, canned meat, shortening, chocolate, a comb & brush set, and two garden hand tools. Each box will feed a family of five for one week. As a supplement to the boxes, an additional 3,000 tons of rice will be distributed to sustain families for a month. To utilize its church network in the U.S. and elsewhere, UMCOR is mobilizing member churches to assemble these boxes. The boxes are sent at intervals as they are received by UMCOR. In July, 1,362 "family boxes" were shipped, and 920 more were shipped in September.

UMCOR anticipates sending two more shipments before Christmas. The boxes are consigned to and distributed by the

Korean Christian Federation.

In April 1997, UMCOR contributed $100,000 to Action by Churches Together (ACT) who shipped 2,000 metric tons of rice to North Korea. This shipment is estimated to provide 444,444 beneficiaries with 450 grams of rice over a 10 day period. ACT representative Erich Weingartner is now in North Korea working with the World Food Program to monitor donations.

In late October 1997, UMCOR again contributed $100,000 to ACT for a shipment of rice.

In November 1997, UMCOR has planned to send a three-person assessment team to North Korea.

UMCOR has also been a member of the Committee to Stop Famine in North Korea since May 1997.

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UNICEF has been coordinating programs in North Korea since 1979 from the regional office in Thailand. UNICEF has provided nutritional rehabilitation to 110,000 severely malnourished children by supplying high-energy milk, multivitamins, essential drugs, IV fluids, ORS, feeding utensils and basic medical equipment to treat children in hospitals. UNICEF also provides children and mothers with vitamin and mineral supplements and measles and tuberculosis immunization. UNICEF assesses water and sanitation situations in nurseries, kindergartens, orphanages and hospitals and responds with sustainable, low-cost, high-impact water supply projects. UNICEF supports food security programs in 300 nurseries, kindergartens, and orphanages by providing seeds, pesticides, fertilizer, and greenhouse materials.

In March 1997, UNICEF and other UN agencies released and appeal for $4.7 million to fund programs. After reassessing the situation, a revised appeal was released in July for $14.346 million to reflect and increase in the scope of current activities and the inclusion of new responses to the health, water and environmental sanitation crises. All projects will be monitored by UNICEF staff and UN, NGO, and governmental partners.

Funding sources for UNICEF include $5 million from USAID as well as funds from UNICEF National Committees in the United States, Germany, Japan, Korea, United Kingdom, and Turkey. Additional funding has come from the Danish government, the Norwegian government, OXFAM, and ECHO (the European Community Humanitarian Office). Total fund to date are approximately $11.8 million (82.3% of the requested amount). The US Committee for UNICEF has

given $250,000 to date.

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In partnership with Korean churches, World Relief is providing desperately needed food to thousands in North Korea. World Relief is working with the Korea Evangelical

Fellowship of South Korea and members of the official churches in North Korea to feed 4,000 people for a month with 66 tons of high quality corn.

As the international assistance arm of the National Association of Evangelicals, World Relief is owned by and works through evangelical churches.

WORLD VISION 34834 Weyerhaeuser Way South Federal Way, WA 98001	WV Relief and Development 220 I Street, NE Suite #270 Washington, DC 20002
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World Vision has sent four relief assessment and response teams into the DPRK at the invitation of the North Korean government since the autumn of 1996.

Since 1995, World Vision has provided to North Korea with nearly $5 million worth of assistance including 1,500 tons of rice and shipments of medicines and medical supplies, clothing and seeds. The supplies are being distributed through World Food Program, a United Nations agency, which works through 193 government distribution centers.

In June 1997, World Vision announced its plan to provide assistance to children in 12 provincial children's centers which house more than 2,400 children younger than five years, many of them orphans. An assessment team has just returned from visiting five such centers and conducting the first systematic measurement of children from July 15 to 22, 1997. It reported that 85% of the children are suffering from malnutrition, and of those, 60% are suffering moderate to severe forms.

In addition to children's centers, World Vision hopes to expand other types of aid to North Korea, including food and agricultural support and the development of noodle factories.

Along with 18 other non-governmental organizations, World Vision has formed the Committee to Stop Famine in North Korea to advocate that the US government provide leadership in feeding the starving people of North Korea and to educate the American public about the famine.

Primary country:

Democratic People's Republic of Korea(/country/prk)

Source:

InterAction(/organization/interaction)

Format:

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